

HHF – PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 11/08

SUBJECT: RESPIRATORY THERAPY EQUIPMENT - CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

PURPOSE: To prevent and minimize bacterial growth in respiratory therapy equipment.

Considerations

1. If not cleaned properly, respiratory therapy equipment provides an excellent reservoir for growth of pathogenic organisms that can be introduced to the patient via the airway.
2. Nasal prongs and face masks should be cleaned daily and replaced at least every 2-4 weeks. Extension tubing should be replaced at least every 3 months.
3. If patient experiences an upper respiratory infection, nasal prongs, extension tubing and face masks should be changed once symptoms are controlled.
4. Equipment should be rinsed in warm running water after each treatment and disinfected daily.
5. Two complete sets of washable equipment should be on hand so that a clean, dry set is available if needed. If new equipment/supplies are needed the patient/caregiver should contact the respiratory supply company.
6. Do not use hair dryers and blowers to dry equipment, let equipment air-dry.
7. All equipment should be kept in a clean, dry, dust-free area, and kept at least 7 feet away from a heat source at all times.
8. Humidification bottles should be washed with soap and warm water, rinsed thoroughly between refills and at least weekly. The bottles should be replaced monthly.

<i>Equipment</i>	
Liquid dish detergent	Basin
Nylon brush	Plastic bag, if equipment is to be stored
Clean, dry towel or paper towels	Gloves
Disinfecting agent recommended by equipment manufacturer	Personal protective equipment as needed

Procedure

1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Remove all washable parts of equipment and disassemble.
3. Wash equipment in liquid dish detergent and hot water, scrubbing gently with a nylon brush. Scrub thoroughly to remove mucus, secretions, medications and foreign material.
4. Rinse equipment thoroughly, making sure all detergent is removed.
5. Soak equipment in disinfecting agent recommended by equipment manufacturer.
6. Rinse equipment parts, using sterile or filtered water for the final rinse.
7. Air dry equipment by:
 - a.) Shaking or swinging excess water out of tubing and hard to dry areas
 - b.) Hanging tubing to allow to drip-dry completely.
 - c.) Placing remaining equipment on clean paper towels and covering with paper towels.
8. Discard solution according to manufacturer’s instructions.
9. Wipe down all surfaces of machines with a clean cloth daily.
10. Store unused equipment in plastic bag.

After Care

1. Document in patient’s record:
 - a.) Instructions given to patient/caregiver.
 - b.) Patient/caregiver understanding and return demonstration.
 - c.) Condition of equipment after cleansing.

Reference: VNAA 2008 Policy & Procedure Manual

Related Policy: HHF Policy #1006: “Management of Medical Equipment and Supplies and Sterile Product Use”

Approved Policy Committee: 11/11/08